

A FOLLETT BEGINNING-TO-READ BOOK

# The Hole in the Hill



Marion Seyton



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# The Hole in the Hill

By Marion Seyton

ILLUSTRATED BY LEONARD SHORTALL

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The Stone family lived in  
a hole in a hill.

It was a cave.

They were very happy.

They wanted only one thing.

They wanted a pet.





Big Father Stone said,  
“Our pet must like hunting.”  
Nice Mother Stone said,  
“Our pet must be clean.”



Sister Stone said,  
“Our pet must be smart.”  
Brother Stone said,  
“Our pet must like to play games.”



They waited to hear what kind  
of pet Littlest Stone wanted.

Littlest Stone said,  
“Our pet . . . our pet . . .”

That was all he had time to say.



The other Stones began  
to talk all at once.

Each one said that the pet  
he wanted was the right pet  
for the hole in the hill.

Then, still talking,  
each one set out to find the  
pet he wanted.





Father Stone took his bow  
and arrows.

He took a rope.

He took three apples.

He went into the woods.

There, there, was an elephant.  
“Elephants do not hunt,”  
said Father Stone, “but they  
like to go hunting.”

While Elephant ate apples  
Father Stone put the rope  
around Elephant’s neck.

Then he climbed up a little tree.  
He jumped on Elephant’s back.







Elephant and Father Stone hunted  
on the way back to the cave.

Good, a fine fat pig!

But when they got up  
to the hole in the hill,  
Elephant stuck, half in  
and half out.

Poor Father Stone!







Mother Stone went to the meadow.  
She took a basket she had made.  
There, there was a rabbit.  
“Rabbits are clean,” she said.



But when she put Rabbit  
in the basket and started home  
she heard hop, hop, hop, hop.  
There, there were ten, twenty,  
thirty rabbits!



They would not stay.  
They ran up the hill.  
They ran under Elephant.  
They ran over Father Stone.  
They ran about wildly, eating  
everything green they could find.  
Poor Father Stone!  
Poor Mother Stone!



Sister Stone took a cage  
when she went to find a pet.  
There, there was a crow.  
“Crows are smart,” she said.  
She put Crow in the cage.  
On the way home she said,  
“Hello, hello, hello.”  
But Crow only said,  
“Caw, caw, caw, caw.”



They went up to the hole  
in the hill.

When Crow saw Elephant  
and all the hungry rabbits  
he flew into them all.

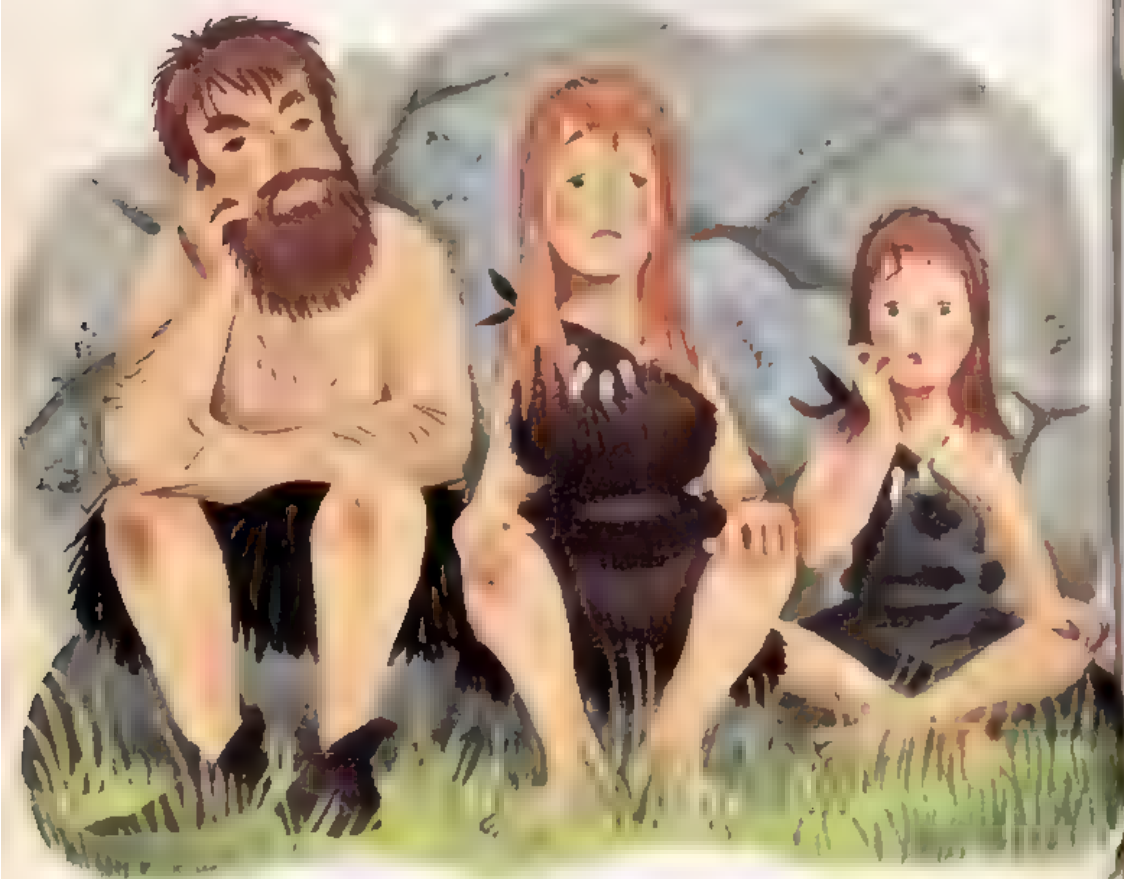
“Caw, caw, caw!” he said.



Elephant's tail swished at Crow.  
Elephant's feet kicked at Crow.  
Crow held on to Elephant's back.  
The rabbits went on eating.



Poor Father Stone.  
Poor Mother Stone.  
Poor Sister Stone.  
Where was Brother Stone?  
Where was the Littlest Stone?



Brother Stone took his  
jumping-jack.

There, there he saw a monkey.  
“Monkeys like to play games,”  
he said.

Monkey came over and began  
to play with the jumping-jack.



Then they went back to the cave.  
What fun to see Elephant  
and Rabbit and Crow!  
Monkey ran to get in on the fun.  
He pulled Elephant's tail.



He pulled rabbit tails.  
He pulled Crow's tail.  
Then he sat on Elephant's back  
and played with his own tail.  
He did not play games  
with Brother Stone.



Poor Father Stone.

Poor Mother Stone.

Poor Sister Stone.

Poor Brother Stone.

Not one of them had found  
the right pet for the hole  
in the hill.



Where was Littlest Stone?

There, there was Littlest Stone  
coming up the hill  
with a . . . with a . . . with a dog.





“Woof!” said Dog to Monkey.  
Monkey ran back to the river.

“Woof!” said Dog to Crow.  
Crow flew back to his tree.

“Woof!” said Dog to Rabbit.  
Rabbit and his friends hopped  
to the meadow.

“Woof!” said Dog to Elephant.  
Elephant roared. And pushed.  
And pulled.

At last, Elephant got out of  
the cave.

He ran back to the woods.







"Thank you, Littlest Stone,"  
said the other Stones.

"Dog is a good hunter,"  
said Father Stone.

"Dog is clean," said Mother Stone.

"Dog is smart," said Sister Stone.

"Dog likes to play games,"  
said Brother Stone.

Littlest Stone said,  
"Best of all, Dog likes to be petted.  
A pet should like to be petted,  
I think."

"So do we," said the other Stones.  
Dog wagged his tail.  
"I think so, too," he was trying to say.





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